PRESS RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art
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Gifts of The Print Club of Cleveland 1969-1979, an exhibition of more than ninety prints and drawings given to The Cleveland Museum of Art by The Print Club of Cleveland during the past ten years, is currently on view through January 27, 1980, in the Museum's prints and drawings galleries.

The Print Club of Cleveland was founded in December, 1919, just three years following the opening of The Cleveland Museum of Art. The Club was established not only to stimulate local interest in printmaking and print collecting but also to aid the Museum in building a print collection of the highest quality. Indeed, in each year since the Print Club's founding, a large percentage of the works acquired by the Museum's Department of Prints and Drawings have been gifts of the Club and its members. These gifts, which range from fifteenth century prints to works by living artists, include some of the most important and rare examples of graphic art in the Museum's collection.

In this exhibition are brilliant engravings by the master German printmakers Martin Schongauer (ca. 1440-1491) and Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), a woodcut of the Sacrifice of Abraham by the Dutch master Lucas van Leyden (1494-1533), etchings by Rembrandt (1606-1669) and the Flemish artist Jacob Jordaens (1593-1678), and lithographs by the French impressionist Camille Pissarro (1830-1903). Several drawings are also shown, notably a beautiful black chalk Study for an Angel Blowing a Trumpet, done by Edgar Degas (1834-1917) when he was in his early twenties.

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Among the most important works by twentieth century artists are Pablo Picasso's cubist etching of 1915, Man with a Guitar, and one of the few impressions of Emil Nolde's 1926 lithograph, Autumn Landscape, a significant addition to the Museum's extensive collection of German expressionist prints. Augmenting the Museum's large holdings of works by the American artist Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956) are eight prints, five given in honor of former Museum curator of prints and drawings Leona E. Prasse, author of the definitive catalogue of Feininger's graphic work and a long-time Print Club member. There are also a number of prints by living American artists, including Louise Nevelson, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, and Lowell Nesbitt. Along with these contemporary works are impressions of the prints that were commissioned between 1970 and 1979 by the Print Club for presentation to its members.

Although it was not possible to display all of the many gifts from individual Print Club members during the past ten years, a selection of twenty-three prints and drawings given to the Museum by one of its most generous benefactors, the late Moselle Taylor Meals, are included in this exhibition. Mrs. Meals, who died last year, was a member of the Museum's Advisory Council and president of the Print Club from 1973 to 1976.

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